

Teeth not specially small, the unicuspid well overlapping, the posterior ones notched behind.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 60 mm.; tail 40; hind foot 11.

Skull: condylo-incisive length 17·7; greatest breadth 7·7; upper molar series 7·6; i^1 to p^4 3·7.

Hab. (of type). "Small uninhabited island one mile north of Sajitu Island, Victoria Nyanza." Another specimen from Kama Island.

Type. Female. B.M. no. 2. 7. 5. 6. Collected 29 December, 1901, and presented by R. J. Cuninghame, Esq.

This little shrew, which Mr. Cuninghame found on two islets in the Victoria Nyanza, is the smallest yet described from East Africa; but it is possible that allies of the still smaller species *C. nana*, Dobs., and *C. Bottegi*, Thos., will prove to occur there, even if there are no representatives of the pigmy shrews of the *C. madagascariensis* group.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A Natural History of the British Lepidoptera. A Textbook for Students and Collectors. By J. W. TUTT, F.E.S. Vol. IV. With Synopsis of Contents of, and General Index to, Vols. I.-IV. Sonnenschein: April, 1904. Pp. xvii, 535. Portrait and pls. i., ii.

ANOTHER two years have passed since the publication of vol. iii. of Mr. Tutt's *magnum opus*, and we have again the pleasure of calling the attention of entomologists to the appearance of a fresh volume of the series. Five species of Sphingides were discussed in the latter part of vol. iii., and vol. iv. is devoted entirely to the twelve remaining species, supplementary notes, and a Catalogue of Palæarctic Sphingides. The Preface deals chiefly with questions of nomenclature, into which we cannot here enter; but we may note that, except as regards the two species of *Hemaris*, Mr. Tutt makes every one of our British species the type of a distinct genus; and in most cases he is certainly justified in this, though it was naturally unnecessary so long as little or nothing was known of the allied foreign species. But we do not see why Mr. Tutt should ignore Scopoli's genus *Macroglossum* (only quoting Ochsenheimer's late form, *Macroglossa*) and give *stellatarum* as the type of *Sesia*, Fabr., from which, we hold, Scopoli's action practically removed it. We cannot follow his reasoning in vol. iii. p. 344 and note. The long account of the habits of this well-known species (the Humming-bird Hawk-Moth) in vol. iv. is very interesting. Much information is also given about the hybrids between *Celerio gallii* and *Hyles euphorbiæ* (we do not, however, see why the *laps. cal.* of *gallii* for *gallii* need be retained).

The history of the occurrence of the rarer Sphinges in Britain, as summarized by Mr. Tutt, is also of considerable importance, as well as the remarks on the structure and colours of larvæ and the stridulation bee-persecuting habits of *Manduca atropos*. The two plates relate to the last-named species in its various stages. The volume closes with an index, synopsis of contents of vols. i.-iv., and general index to vols. i.-iv., the last item by the Rev. George Wheeler.

In conclusion, we can only again emphasize our conviction of the enormous value of this encyclopædic work to all working Lepidopterists.

W. F. KIRBY.

The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Published under the authority of the Secretary of State for India in Council. Edited by W. T. BLANFORD.—*Rhynchota*. Vol. II. (*Heteroptera*). By W. L. DISTANT. London, 1904. 8vo. Pp. xvii, 503; figs. 319.

THE second volume of Mr. Distant's important work on the Bugs of India extends from Fam. 4. Lygæidæ to Fam. 16. Capsidæ, thus, with the exception of the Anthocoridae, completing the monograph of the true Land Bugs of India. The remaining Heteroptera will be included, with the commencement of the Homoptera, in the third volume; and we hope that the Homoptera will be treated in the same exhaustive manner as the Heteroptera. The total number of Heteroptera described in Mr. Distant's first two volumes is 1471, while the whole number of British species is upwards of 450. Nevertheless certain families of Land Bugs are apparently more richly represented in Britain than in India. Thus, Mr. Distant describes only three species of Indian Saldidæ, only one of which belongs to the genus *Salda*, Fabr., whereas Mr. Saunders describes 17 British species, all belonging to the genus *Salda*. Then there seem to be only two Indian species of Cimicidæ, including the notorious *Cimex lectularius*; whereas we have 4 species in Britain, including the insect already mentioned, which is certainly a naturalized and not a native species with us.

We should like to see a series of works similar to the 'Fauna of British India' undertaken with respect to all the principal British possessions.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

June 8th, 1904.—J. E. Marr, Sc.D., F.R.S.,
President, in the Chair.

The following communications were read:—

1. 'The Palæontological Sequence in the Carboniferous Limestone of the Bristol Area.' By Arthur Vaughan, Esq., B.A., B.Sc., F.G.S.

The zonyary divisions established by the Author are given in the table on p. 239 in the form in which they are finally set out, after emendation and further revision of a preliminary working system.